

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A medical aspirator for aspirating thrombus, phlegm, or a body fluid such as blood, comprising:

an aspiration port;

a reciprocating type electric pump for performing vacuum aspiration;

a ventilation path which connects the aspiration port and the electric pump;

an exhaust port; and

an atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve provided in the ventilation path for releasing a negative pressure in the ventilation path and providing atmospheric pressure in the ventilation path, the atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve being adapted to open simultaneously with stopping of the electric pump and to close simultaneously with starting of the electric pump.

2. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 1, wherein the electric pump is a diaphragm pump.

3. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 1,

wherein the atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve is an electromagnetic valve.

4. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 2, wherein the atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve is an electromagnetic valve.

5-8. (canceled)

9. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 1, further comprising a clogging detection means which detects clogging in an aspiration catheter or an aspiration tube during an aspiration operation.

10 - 20. (canceled)

21. (original) A medical aspirator according to claim 1, further comprising a cell for a power supply.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A medical aspirator for aspirating thrombus, phlegm, or a body fluid such as blood, comprising:

an aspiration port;

a reciprocating type electric pump for performing vacuum aspiration;

a ventilation path connecting the aspiration port and the electric pump;

an exhaust port; and

a clogging detection means which detects clogging in an aspiration catheter or an aspiration tube during an aspiration operation;

further comprising an atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve provided in the ventilation path for releasing a negative pressure in the ventilation path and providing atmospheric pressure in the ventilation path, the atmospheric pressure obtaining release valve being adapted to open ~~and close~~ simultaneously with stopping of the electric pump and to close simultaneously with starting of the electric pump.